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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/789,231	02/27/2004	Christopher James Brown	YAMAP0904US	7985

43076 7590 03/20/2008

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EXAMINER

BODDIE, WILLIAM

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/20/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/789,231

Applicant(s)

BROWN, CHRISTOPHER JAMES

Examiner

WILLIAM L. BODDIE

Art Unit

2629

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. In an amendment dated February 14th, 2008, the Applicant amended claims 1, 25 and cancelled claim 2. Currently claims 1 and 3-36 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed February 14th, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. On page 10 of the Remarks, the Applicant argues that there is no motivation to combine Tanaka-SID with Tanaka.

The Examiner must respectfully disagree. As stated in the previous office action, there are well-known benefits to active matrix screens, such as higher contrast ratios, increased display quality and a significantly increased viewing angle.

4. Also on page 10 of the Remarks, the Applicant argues that even if a motivation were present, the combination would both destroy Tanaka-SID's intended purpose and change the principle of operation of Tanaka-SID.

Again the Examiner must respectfully disagree. Tanaka-SID's intended purpose and principle of operation do not seem requisite on the display being a passive matrix display. To the contrary, Tanaka-SID expressly contemplates different types of liquid crystal of displays stating, "this idea is not always limited only to TN-LCD but also can be applied to other types of LCDs." (col. 2, 2nd para.). Furthermore there are requirements that the panel be a passive matrix display within the Tanaka-SID paper. While there are certainly differences between passive and active matrix display driving, no reasons have been presented by Applicant, nor in the cited prior art, which

demonstrate the complete unsuitability of applying active matrix driving to Tanaka-SID's touch display. As such, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka are seen as properly combinable.

5. On pages 10-11 of the Remarks, the Applicant argues that neither Tanaka-SID nor Tanaka disclose the output arrangement of claim 1.

The Examiner must respectfully disagree, and notes that Applicant appears to be arguing against the references individually. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

As shown above, the rejection of claims 1-2 are seen as proper and sufficient and are thus maintained in the current office action. The below rejections have been updated due to the current amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1, 5-10, 13 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; hereinafter **Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688).

With respect to claim 1, Tanaka-SID discloses, an passive matrix display (col. 1, line 10) and sensor apparatus (HPF, A/d, etc. in fig. 4), comprising: an array of display picture elements (darkened spots in fig. 4) arranged as rows and columns (clear from fig. 4), each picture element having a display data input (section of column electrode) for receiving image data to be displayed and a scan input (section of row electrode) for enabling input of image data from the data input,

said data inputs of said picture elements of each column being connected to a respective column data line (3 in fig. 6) and said scan inputs of said picture elements of each row being connected to a respective row scan line (1 in fig. 6);

a data signal generator (LCD Driver in fig. 4) for supplying data signals to the column data lines;

a scan signal generator (LCD driver in fig. 4) for supplying scan signals to said row scan lines; and

an output arrangement (HPF, micro computer etc. in fig. 4) connected to said column data lines for outputting sensor signals generated by and within said display picture elements in response to external stimuli (page 1; "operational principle of the TED"),

wherein sensor signals are generated by and within an optically variable region of each display picture element of the LCD (col. 2, 3rd para. for example; also note figs. 2 and 4).

Tanaka-SID does not expressly disclose an active matrix display or any of the usual circuitry associated with such a display type.

Tanaka discloses, an active matrix display (col. 1, line 10) and sensor apparatus (2 in fig. 3; in part), comprising: an array of display picture elements (5-7, 41 and 110 in fig. 6) arranged as rows and columns (clear from fig. 6), each picture element having a display data input (6 in fig. 6) for receiving image data to be displayed and a scan input (5 in fig. 6) for enabling input of image data from the data input,

said data inputs of said picture elements of each column being connected to a respective column data line (3 in fig. 6) and said scan inputs of said picture elements of each row being connected to a respective row scan line (1 in fig. 6);

a data signal generator (200 in fig. 6) for supplying data signals to the column data lines;

a scan signal generator (81 in fig. 6) for supplying scan signals to said row scan lines.

Tanaka-SID and Tanaka are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor namely input/output displays.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the active matrix circuitry of Tanaka in the display of Tanaka-SID.

The motivation for doing so would have been the well-known advantage of better display quality and higher contrast ratios.

With respect to claim 5, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which each of said picture elements comprises an image generating element (110 in fig. 6) and an electronic switch (41 in fig. 6).

With respect to claim 6, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 5 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which each of said image generating elements comprises a liquid crystal element (col. 5, line 15).

With respect to claim 7, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 5 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which each of said picture elements comprises a storage capacitor (Cs in fig. 6).

With respect to claim 8, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 5 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which each of said electronic switches comprises a thin film transistor (col. 1, line 33).

With respect to claim 9, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 8 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which each of said transistors has a gate connected to said picture element scan input (5 in fig. 6), a source connected to said picture element data input (6 in fig. 6), and a drain connected to said image generating element (7 in fig. 6; col. 3, lines 46-47).

With respect to claim 10, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, comprising a controller (clock in fig. 6) for controlling at least one of said data and scan signal generators and said output arrangement (col. 5, lines 18-20, for example).

With respect to claim 13, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 10 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which said controller is arranged to control which of said picture element sensor signals are output by said output arrangement (see clock input into 46 in fig. 6; also note col. 6, lines 13-24).

With respect to claim 31, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which said output arrangement is responsive to a characteristic of said picture elements comprising at least one of voltage, current, stored charge and capacitance (leaked voltage signal; col. 5, lines 54-66).

With respect to claim 32, Tanaka-Sid and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which said output arrangement comprises a plurality of sense amplifiers (44 in fig. 6) connected to said column data lines (col. 5, line 60).

8. Claims 3-4 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; **hereinafter Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688) and further in view of Zhang et al. (US 6,087,648).

With respect to claim 3, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID nor Tanaka expressly disclose, comprising a display substrate on which are integrated said data signal generator, said scan signal generator, said output arrangement, and electronic components of the array.

Zhang discloses, an active matrix display device comprising a display substrate (10 in fig. 1) on which are integrated a data signal generator (22 in fig. 1), a scan signal generator (22 in fig. 1), an output arrangement (32 in fig. 1), and electronic components of the array (21 in fig. 1; also note col. 1, lines 12-18).

Zhang, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor namely input/output displays.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to integrate all of the display driving components onto the substrate of Tanaka and Tanaka-SID as taught by Zhang.

The motivation for doing so would have been to reduce cost, size and weight of a liquid crystal panel (Zhang; col. 1, lines 19-22).

With respect to claim 4, Zhang, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 3 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, wherein said data signal generator is disposed along a first edge of said array and said output arrangement is disposed along a second edge of said array opposite said first edge (clear from fig. 6).

With respect to claim 11, Zhang, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 3 (see above).

Tanaka-SID further discloses, as modified by Zhang and Tanaka, comprising a controller (Tanaka; clock in fig. 6) for controlling at least one of said data and scan signal generators and said output arrangement (Tanaka; col. 5, lines 18-20), in which said controller is integrated on said display substrate (Zhang; 40 in fig. 1).

With respect to claim 12, Zhang, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 11 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, comprising active devices embodied as thin film transistors (41 in fig. 6; col. 1, line 33).

9. Claims 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; **hereinafter Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688) and further in view of Ure (US 5,982,302).

With respect to claim 14, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 13 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID nor Tanaka expressly disclose, wherein said controller is programmable to determine which of said picture element sensor signals are output by said output arrangement.

Ure discloses, a touch screen, wherein a controller (75 in fig. 6) is programmable (figs. 7-10; col. 5, lines 45-49) to determine which of picture element sensor signals (fig. 3 for example) are output by an output arrangement (71 in fig. 6).

Ure, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor namely touch screen display control circuitry.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the controller of Tanaka-SID and Tanaka with the programmable controller of Ure.

The motivation for doing so would have been offer high pointing resolution in a small-defined space (Ure; col. 1, lines 24-27).

With respect to claim 15, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Ure disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 14 (see above).

Ure further discloses, wherein said controller is reprogrammable during operation of the apparatus to change which of said picture element sensor signals are output by said output arrangement (clear from figs. 7-10; also note col. 7, lines 12-29).

10. Claims 16-17 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; **hereinafter Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688) and further in view of Inoue et al. (US 5,929,834).

With respect to claim 16, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 10 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID nor Tanaka expressly disclose, wherein said controller is arranged to control operation of said data and scan signal generators and said output arrangement to define alternating image writing phases and sensor reading phases.

Inoue discloses, a liquid crystal touch screen (fig. 4) wherein a controller (11, 12 in fig. 4) is arranged to control operation of a data and scan signal generator (9 and 10 in fig. 4) and an output arrangement (15-17 in fig. 4) to define alternating image writing phases and sensor reading phases (note fig. 5; col. 2, lines 8-11 col. 6, lines 1-6).

Inoue, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor namely touch screen display control circuitry.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the controller of Tanaka and Tanaka-SID with the alternating writing and sensing controller of Inoue.

The motivation for doing so would have been to detect the coordinate position without affecting the display operation (Inoue; col. 2, lines 41-43).

With respect to claim 17, Inoue, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 16 (see above).

Inoue further discloses, wherein a frame of image data is written to said array during each of said writing phase (clear from fig. 5).

With respect to claim 19, Inoue, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 16 (see above).

Inoue further discloses, wherein at least one row of image data is written to said array during each said writing phase (clear from fig. 5; col. 4, lines 56-62).

With respect to claim 20, Inoue, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 19 (see above).

Tanaka-SID, as modified by Tanaka and Inoue, further discloses, in which each said reading phase comprises outputting said sensor signals from at least one row of picture elements after said at least one row to which image data were written during a preceding writing phase (note fig. 5 of Inoue which discloses detecting signals along rows which were previously write addressed in the frame).

With respect to claim 21, Inoue, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 16 (see above).

Inoue further discloses, wherein sensor signals of all of said picture elements are output during each said reading phase (col. 5, lines 37-63).

11. Claims 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; **hereinafter Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688) and further in view of Yoneda et al. (US 5,677,744).

With respect to claim 16, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 10 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID nor Tanaka expressly disclose, wherein said controller is arranged to control operation of said data and scan signal generators and said output arrangement to define alternating image writing phases and sensor reading phases.

Yoneda discloses, a liquid crystal touch screen (title) wherein output of data and scan signals (9 and 10 in fig. 4) and an output arrangement (coordinate detection circuit; col. 2, lines 13-14) define alternating image writing phases (tA in fig. 7) and sensor

reading phases (tB in fig. 7; clear from fig. 7 that they are alternating; also note col. 11, lines 34-39).

Yoneda, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor namely touch screen display control circuitry.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the controller of Tanaka-SID and Tanaka with the alternating writing and sensing circuitry of Yoneda.

The motivation for doing so would have been to not disturb any display operation (Yoneda; col. 11, lines 28-35).

With respect to claim 18, Yoneda, Tanada-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 16 (see above).

Yoneda further discloses, in which each said reading phase occurs during a vertical blanking period between consecutive said writing phases (col. 11, lines 40-47).

12. Claims 22-23, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; **hereinafter Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688) and Yoneda et al. (US 5,677,744) and further in view of Ure (US 5,982,302).

With respect to claims 22 and 23, Tanaka-SID, Yoneda and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 16 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID, Tanaka nor Yoneda expressly disclose, in which the sensor signals of a proper subset of all of said picture elements are output during each said reading phase.

Ure discloses, a touch screen, wherein sensor signals of a proper subset of all of a set of picture elements are output during each said reading phase (col. 5, lines 45-49; also note figs. 7-10).

Ure, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Yoneda are all analogous art because they are all from the same field of endeavor namely, touch screen display control circuitry.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to output a subset of sensor signals from the picture elements of Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Yoneda as taught by Ure.

The motivation for doing so would have been to achieve a simple yet powerful method of user interaction in which the traditional keyboard and mouse disappear (Ure; col. 1, line 55).

With respect to claim 25, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka, Yoneda and Ure disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 22 (see above).

Ure further discloses, said proper subset of picture elements comprises at least one group of rows of picture elements, each group containing at least one row (fig. 3; each row is seen as a group).

With respect to claim 27, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka, Yoneda and Ure disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 25 (see above).

Ure further discloses, wherein said at least one group comprises a plurality of adjacent rows (clear from fig. 3).

13. Claims 22 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; **hereinafter Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688) and Yoneda et al. (US 5,677,744) and further in view of Yamamoto et al. (US 5,691,513).

With respect to claim 22, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Yoneda disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 16 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID, Tanaka nor Yoneda expressly disclose, in which the sensor signals of a proper subset of all of said picture elements are output during each said reading phase.

Yamamoto discloses, a touch screen, wherein sensor signals of a proper subset of all of a set of picture elements are output during each said reading phase (fig. 3; 11-19 are scanned first then followed by 21-29 in the subsequent reading phase; col. 7, lines 51-65).

Tanaka-SID, Tanaka, Yoneda and Yamamoto are all analogous art because they are all from the same field of endeavor namely, touch screen display control circuitry.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select output a subset of sensor signals from the picture elements of Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Yoneda as taught by Yamamoto.

The motivation for doing so would have been the higher speed and correct operation in a coordinate data detecting process (Yamamoto; col. 3, lines 53-61).

With respect to claim 24, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka, Yamamoto and Yoneda disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 22 (see above).

Yamamoto further discloses, a touch screen scanning method in which said proper subset of picture elements comprises different picture elements during each reading phase of a group of reading phases such that said sensor signals of all of said picture elements are output during each group of said reading phases (col. 7, lines 50-65; discloses scanning half of the elements and then should the user's input not be detected then the other remaining elements are scanned. Also note figs. 3 and 4).

With respect to claim 25, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka, Yoneda and Yamamoto disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 22 (see above).

Yamamoto further discloses, wherein said proper subset of picture elements comprises at least one group of rows of picture elements, each group containing at least one row (clear from figs. 3 and 4 that the subset includes at least one group of several rows).

With respect to claim 26, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka, Yoneda and Yamamoto disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 25 (see above).

Yamamoto further discloses, wherein said at least one group comprises a plurality of groups which are substantially evenly spaced in the column direction of said array (clear figs. 3 and 4 that the first scanning rows are evenly spaced apart).

14. Claims 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; **hereinafter Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688) and further in view of Machida et al. (US 5,835,076).

With respect to claim 28, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 13 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID nor Tanaka expressly disclose, wherein said controller is arranged to control operation of said data and scan signal generators and said output arrangement to write image data to and to read sensor signals from said array simultaneously.

Machida discloses, wherein a controller (11 in fig. 4) is arranged to control operation of said data (7 in fig. 4) and scan (9 in fig. 4) signal generators and said output arrangement (7 and 8 in fig. 4) to write image data to and to read sensor signals from said array simultaneously (col. 2, lines 1-24 for example).

Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Machida are all analogous art because they are all from the same field of endeavor namely, touch screen display control circuitry.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the controller of Tanaka-SID and Tanaka with the simultaneous writing and reading circuitry of Machida.

The motivation for doing so would have been to increase the contrast of the display device (Machida; col. 1, lines 49-53).

With respect to claim 29, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Machida disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 28 (see above).

Machida further discloses, wherein said data signal generator is arranged to supply image data to first ones of said data lines and said output arrangement is arranged to read sensor signals simultaneously from second one of said data lines different from said first ones for each row of said picture elements (col. 2, lines 1-24).

With respect to claim 30, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Machida disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 29 (see above).

Machida further discloses, wherein said first and second ones are the same for all of the rows of said picture elements (see fig. 6 and note col. 3, lines 34-51).

15. Claims 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. ("Entry of Data and Command for an LCD by Direct Touch: An Integrated LCD Panel"; **hereinafter Tanaka-SID**) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 5,151,688) and further in view of Nakashima (US 5,729,251).

With respect to claim 33, Tanaka-SID and Tanaka disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 32 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID nor Tanaka expressly disclose, wherein the number of sense amplifiers is less than the number of data lines and each sense amplifier is connectable to any one of a respective set of said data lines by a respective first multiplexer.

Nakashima discloses, a touch screen display system (fig. 15) wherein a number of sense amplifiers (104b in fig. 15) is less than the number of data lines (LX1-2 in fig.

15) and each sense amplifier is connectable to any one of a respective set of said data lines by a respective first multiplexer (103b in fig. 15).

Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Nakashima are analogous art because they are both from the same field of endeavor namely scanning and detection circuitry for touch screen display devices.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the one-to-one amplifiers and analog switch of Tanaka-SID and Tanaka with the multiplexer and amplifier ratio taught by Nakashima.

The motivation for doing so would have been decreased cost and lessened manufacturing time due to the reduction in detector/amplifiers required.

With respect to claim 34, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Nakashima disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 32 (see above).

Neither Tanaka-SID nor Tanaka expressly discloses, a plurality of analog/digital converters.

Nakashima further discloses, wherein an output arrangement (103-110 in fig. 15) comprises a plurality of analog/digital converters (109 and 107-109 in fig. 15) connected to outputs of said sense amplifiers (note fig. 16 which discloses the digital output of the decoder when supplied with an input analog signal).

It would have been obvious to include the plurality of analog/digital converters as taught by Nakashima in the touch screen device of Tanaka-SID and Tanaka.

The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the position information to be digitally stored and further coded (Nakashima; col. 15, lines 13-15).

With respect to claim 35, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Nakashima disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 34 (see above).

Nakashima further discloses, wherein the number of said converters (2 in fig. 15) is less than the number of said sense amplifiers (9 in fig. 15) and each said sense amplifier is connectable to any one of a respective set of said sense amplifier outputs (clear from fig. 15) by a respective second multiplexer (106 in fig. 15).

With respect to claim 36, Tanaka-SID, Tanaka and Nakashima disclose, an apparatus as claimed in claim 34 (see above).

Tanaka further discloses, in which said output arrangement comprises a shift register (46 in fig. 6) for converting parallel outputs from said converters to a serial output.

Conclusion

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILLIAM L. BODDIE whose telephone number is (571)272-0666. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 - 4:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 2629

/Sumati Lefkowitz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2629

/Wlb/
3/13/08